



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 3, 2014

Dear Texas Congressional Delegation:

After President Obama abandoned any further development of Yucca Mountain and Congress ceased all funding in 2011, the country must look for new solutions to the long-term issue of safe and secure handling of high level radioactive waste (HLW). Early in 2013, the U.S. Department of Energy announced that it was looking into alternative, permanent disposal solutions to replace the proposed storage facility at Yucca Mountain. By its own estimations, a permanent HLW disposal solution will not be available until 2048.

An amendment proposed by Congressman Joe Barton authorizes the Secretary of Energy to conduct a pilot program that would provide interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and HLW, with the priority for storage given to spent nuclear fuel located on sites without an operating nuclear reactor. This option could demonstrate how this waste can be transported and stored in a secure and viable manner, providing a step toward a long-term solution to this ongoing issue.

With or without a long-term solution for disposing of HLW, implementation of interim facilities is needed. I believe it is time for the Congress to act and ensure that the United States has a safe and secure solution for HLW, and I support this effort by Congressman Barton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:rvp

cc: The Honorable Joe L. Barton